English Language Arts A10 - Independent Novel Study

This assignment is intended to display your understanding of the novel that you have chosen and the character(s) within it. Written work should be typed (12pt font) and double-spaced. You will have some class time to work on this assignment, but it is sometimes difficult to book computer time that will accommodate our schedule. Please plan ahead.

You may choose a book from any of the **senior ELA sections**, but I would prefer if you tried to find a novel in the ELA A10 section before looking elsewhere.

# Part A – 20 marks

Based on your chosen novel, prepare a three to five minute talk as a character from the novel (ie. “Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I have been asked to tell you about the time when…). You will be retelling a narrative spoken by your character or recounting an experience or event that happened to this character. Depending on the person and circumstances, you may wish to give a bit of background information before beginning to speak about the experience. Make the talk interesting for your audience. Know your character well so that you can speak fluently and easily for the time period required. After you finish, your teacher or classmates may want to as you questions, so be prepared for that.

You will receive bonus marks for costumes, props, etc.

You may use cue cards if you must, but be aware that you will not score as well if you cannot speak as though you are your character. I will require the written “speech” (in full) handed in to me before you begin.

You will have class time to work on this assignment, and this will also be what you work on if you are finished with your work during class time but I am working with the other group of students. Remember this and use your class time effectively.

## Part B – 40 marks

# Assignment: You must write a minimum 500-word essay (word count will be required) on the novel of your choice. The topic of your paper is yours to choose, but here are some suggestions:

* Analyze and explain the relationships between generations
* Discuss the use of comedy
* Discuss the contribution of a minor character in the novel
* Compare and contrast the novel with another piece you have read
* Discuss the author’s treatment of gender
* Discuss the author’s treatment of class relations
* How does the setting in your novel contribute to the theme or tone?
* How was this novel shaped by the time period in which it was written?
* Find a quote and discuss how the novel compliments the quote
* Discuss the evident themes in your novel

Of course, these are just suggestions and I understand if you may be overwhelmed by an open-ended essay. Give yourself some time to read your novel and jot down some of your ideas as you read. We can work together to pick a topic that works for you.

**You must follow writing guidelines that you have been taught and ensure that your paper is double-spaced. Further, you must include evidence of each stage of the writing process (pre-writing, drafting, editing, final copy, etc.).**

Be confident in your abilities to showcase your knowledge of your novel! The most important thing in this assignment is to use your time wisely—this will be overwhelming if you leave it until the last minute! Be smart, plan ahead, and give yourself time to do a good job on this assignment! By this grade level, you should be able to discipline yourself to complete major projects without much encouragement or nagging!

**Due Dates:**

\*\* Everyone must have their novel read and be working on their speaking presentation by **Friday, November 4, 2011.**  Everyone must see me about the topic they have chosen to write on (or to get assistance in choosing a topic) before beginning their essays. Everyone must have an essay topic chosen by **Monday, November 21, 2011.**

Due Date for the speaking portion (Part A) is **Friday, November 18, 2011**

Due Date for the essay portion (Part B) is **Wednesday, December 21, 2011.**